

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 12 December 2017

Schools and Lifelong Learning Estate Strategic Review – Update on Informal Consultation

Item number	7.1
Report number	
Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	All

Executive summary

A [report](#) to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 10 October 2017 provided an update on the informal consultation being progressed with local elected members, school communities and other key stakeholders in west and south west Edinburgh.

This report provides a further update on the strategic review informal consultation process in the west and south west of the city and provides information on progress with other informal consultations in other areas of the city.

Report

Schools and Lifelong Learning Estate Strategic Review – Update on Informal Consultation in West and South West Edinburgh

Recommendations

- 1.1 Agree that, based on the outcome of the recently concluded informal consultation, Kirkliston Primary School should, if required in the future, be a feeder primary to a new West of Edinburgh High School.
- 1.2 Agree that the need for a statutory consultation for Kirkliston Primary School to feed to the new West Edinburgh High School is kept under review and only delivered when essential.
- 1.3 Note that further work on transport and travel access to a new school, explanation of expected pupil numbers across West Edinburgh and discussions on the site opportunities for a new school within the proposed catchment area will be progressed.
- 1.4 Note the proposals for the informal consultation on the future of Gaelic Medium Education and that a draft statutory consultation paper will be prepared for consideration by Committee in March 2018.
- 1.5 Note the update on the Wave 4 Trinity Academy feasibility study and the options appraisal for additional accommodation at Boroughmuir High School.

Background

- 2.1 A replacement secondary school for Queensferry is being progressed with construction of the new school to be completed by March 2020. The new school is part funded by the Scottish Government through the Schools for the Future Programme and is being delivered by hub South East Scotland Ltd through a DBFM (Design, Build, Finance and Maintain) revenue funding arrangement.
- 2.2 Projections show that, in the future, the new school will not be able to accommodate all the expected pupils from the current Queensferry High School catchment area. A [report](#) to Council on 24 November 2016 highlighted this would result in a catchment review proposal being brought forward for Kirkliston Primary School feeding into a different secondary school. A [report](#) to

Committee on 10 October 2017 outlined the informal consultation process which would proceed with the Kirkliston community in relation to this requirement.

- 2.3 A [report](#) to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 15 August 2017 highlighted two further issues which affect the strategic approach to new infrastructure in this area of the city which were as follows.
- 2.4 In west Edinburgh, the LDP Action Programme identifies a requirement for a new West Edinburgh High School to support the significant housing development within this area. The Council's proposed Local Development Plan Supplementary Guidance on Developer Contributions and Infrastructure Delivery identifies that the proposed site for this new school is within the International Business Gateway (IBG).
- 2.5 On 3 July 2017 the City of Edinburgh Council received a letter from the Scottish Government directing the Council not to adopt the Supplementary Guidance. The Scottish Ministers' reason for this direction relates solely to the supplementary guidance identifying the new secondary school within the IBG site. While the direction does not rule out a new high school ultimately being delivered in this location, it is a significant enough intervention that alternative options for a new high school in West Edinburgh require to be explored.
- 2.6 The report also highlighted that the ongoing survey of the condition of the Council estate has identified that it will be necessary to replace the Currie High School building in the longer term.
- 2.7 It was concluded that these issues require to be considered alongside the inclusion of Wester Hailes Education Centre and Balerno High School in the Wave 4 feasibility studies and all the other new education infrastructure requirements identified for west and south west Edinburgh through rising rolls, the LDP and early years 2020. It was therefore proposed and approved by Committee that the strategic approach to the future schools and lifelong learning estate in west and south west Edinburgh requires further consideration through informal consultation before any formal statutory consultations are progressed.
- 2.8 The Committee on 15 August 2017 also agreed that an informal consultation would be progressed with elected members, school communities and other key stakeholders on future provision of secondary Gaelic Medium Education in Edinburgh. Further to this it was agreed the Wave 4 feasibility study for Trinity Academy should be extended to consider detailed design of sports facilities for the school beside the playing fields adjacent to Bangholm Recreation Centre and a feasibility study to look at options for additional accommodation for Boroughmuir High School should be progressed.
- 2.9 An update on all these issues is provided in the remainder of this report.

Main report

Informal consultation process

- 3.1 The process established for the informal consultation is as follows:
- Development of strategic options by the school estate planning team
 - Elected member briefing sessions on the emerging options
 - Workshops with the affected school communities
- 3.2 Following the informal consultation, a series of detailed statutory consultation papers with the preferred options for the future of schools and catchment areas will be submitted to an appropriate Education, Children and Families Committee for consideration.

Informal consultation for Queensferry High School (Kirkliston area)

- 3.3 The two options for resolving the capacity issues which are projected to affect Queensferry High School in the future which were proposed during the informal consultation were that Kirkliston Primary School feeds into a new Winchburgh High School or a new West of Edinburgh High School. The informal consultations sessions with the Kirkliston school community have now been completed. The purpose of the informal consultation was to establish if there was a preference emerging between the two options for future secondary school provision.
- 3.4 The parent councils of Kirkliston Primary School and Queensferry High School worked together to collate responses from the Kirkliston School Community. Analysis of the responses suggests that there is no clear preference for either option. The main concerns raised in relation to the Winchburgh option were the variations in holidays and the potential differences that can exist in how the curriculum for excellence is delivered, between Edinburgh schools and West Lothian schools. The main concern in relation to the West of Edinburgh option was the traffic congestion which might be encountered on the journey to school and the actual location of the school.
- 3.5 Questions were also raised about why the primary school could not remain part of the Queensferry High School cluster in the future or whether a new high school could be delivered closer to Kirkliston. This led the primary school Parent Council to conclude that a statutory consultation should not be brought forward until all comments and any potential other options have been fully considered.
- 3.6 As has been explained in previous reports the two options presented were put forward following consideration of possibilities for the best long term approach to secondary school provision in west Edinburgh. The latest projections, which are the subject of a separate report to this Committee, show that the capacity of both Kirkliston Primary School and Queensferry High School will not be sufficient to accommodate expected pupil numbers in the future. However, the projected number of pupils coming from Kirkliston is not enough to support a secondary school and that is why options for schools in other locations were presented.

- 3.7 It is also expected that the projection for Kirkliston Primary School could be artificially high due to the projection methodology not adequately reflecting future trends when housing development in Kirkliston begins to reduce. While this in turn could reduce the projection for Queensferry High School, it would not be a reduction which would see the overall projection for the school go below the available capacity.
- 3.8 Based on the consideration and analysis of the feedback received through the informal consultation it is proposed the best option for Kirkliston Primary School in terms of future high school provision would be for it to feed to a new West of Edinburgh High School. A decision on the Winchburgh option has to be made now and as it does not have clear support from all of the community it is not an option which can be recommended to proceed.
- 3.9 However, as pupil generation trends associated with the delivery of new housing in both Kirkliston and Queensferry are not yet certain and the community have expressed a strong preference for retaining the relationship with Queensferry High School, it is recommended that the need for a statutory consultation is kept under review and only delivered when essential.
- 3.10 Due to the concerns raised about traffic congestion affecting journeys to the new school and the actual location of the new school, it is proposed that a detailed assessment of transport requirements for the new school would need to be carried out and included in any future statutory consultation paper. It is also proposed that the school estate planning team carries out further work with the Kirkliston Primary School Parent Council to share with them details of expected pupil numbers across West Edinburgh and the site opportunities for a new school within the proposed catchment area.
- 3.11 This approach depends on the delivery of a West of Edinburgh High School which is included as one element of the ongoing informal consultation in the south west and west of Edinburgh. An update on this wider informal consultation is provided in the following section.

Informal consultation in South West and West Edinburgh

- 3.12 The school estate planning team have developed options for the future of the schools and lifelong learning estate in south west and west Edinburgh. The detail of the options is now available at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schoolsreview. Letters have been sent to parents of all the schools involved in the informal consultation and other key stakeholders have been informed about the consultation process.
- 3.13 The school estate planning team is working with the schools and the parent councils to finalise the format for engagement workshops in January and February 2018 which will be held as part of the informal consultation period. The objective of these workshops will be to gather feedback on the options which have been presented and to determine whether there are any other options for the future of the school estate suggested by the communities which will be directly affected.

- 3.14 The outputs of the consultation period will be analysed and will help to inform detailed statutory consultation papers which will be prepared for consideration at future Committees.

Informal Consultation on the future of Gaelic Medium Education

- 3.15 The school roll projections for James Gillespie's High School (JGHS) show that it will experience issues accommodating the expected pupil intake in future years. One step towards addressing this issue would be establishing of enhanced Gaelic Medium Education (GME) provision at an alternative location.
- 3.16 As part of the strategic review, the school estate planning team have therefore been considering options for the relocation of GME secondary from JGHS to another location. One opportunity which has emerged from the analysis is that Drummond High School (DHS) could become the school to which pupils from the Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce attend for secondary GME education. DHS currently has the capacity for the additional GME pupils and is located close to Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce which would assist with sharing of resources between primary and secondary GME.
- 3.17 It is therefore now suggested this proposal is discussed with parent councils at DHS, JGHS and Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce with engagement events for the wider school communities and other stakeholders, including those with an interest in GME, being held as necessary in January. If a suitable transfer proposal can be agreed with all the affected parties then a detailed draft statutory consultation paper would be submitted to Committee in March 2018 for consideration.
- 3.18 An aspiration for a dedicated GME secondary school has been expressed in the 0-18 GME strategy being developed by the Gaelic Implementation Group as part of a new Gaelic Language Plan. The need to consider the future of GME provision across the city has also recently been enhanced due to the August 2017 intake at the GME primary school being significantly higher than in previous years. The transfer of GME secondary provision to DHS could also present an opportunity in the longer term, if demand continues to increase, for the school to operate as a dedicated GME secondary school.
- 3.19 As this longer term possibility could have implications for the schools in the high school clusters adjacent to DHS, it is proposed these issues are considered during the informal consultation process. These discussions would involve any school which could potentially be affected in the longer term.

Update on Feasibility Studies

- 3.20 As agreed at the Education, Children and Families Committee in August 2017 the Wave 4 Feasibility study for Trinity Academy has been extended to consider detailed design of school sports facilities beside the playing fields adjacent to Bangholm Recreation Centre. One of the main reasons for the extended feasibility study was to determine the scale of facilities that it would be acceptable to provide at this location.

- 3.21 The extended feasibility study has shown it would be possible to provide all the sport facilities required for a 1200 capacity school on the site and retain the outdoor recreation centre which already exists at Bangholm. A working group has recently been held with the Head Teacher and representatives of the parent council to share with them the outcome of the feasibility study.
- 3.22 The delivery of the new sports facilities at Trinity Academy will now be considered as part of the overall investment required in the school estate arising from the strategic review. The process for identifying the funding required for new infrastructure investment is provided in the financial implications section below.
- 3.23 Progress has also been made on identifying the options for provision of additional accommodation for Boroughmuir High School. The options include assessing the opportunity for development of the space required by the school on sites which are adjacent to the new school. The options appraisal will be completed by February 2018 and a further update will be provided to Committee in March 2018.

Measures of success

- 4.1 A schools and lifelong learning estate which is fully integrated with the requirements, objectives and aspirations of the whole Council and other key partners.

Financial impact

- 5.1 The financial implications on future capital and revenue budgets associated with the potential infrastructure projects arising from the strategic review will be considered in detail with colleagues in finance. Business cases will be developed through the Communities and Families Asset Investment Group and presented to the Corporate Property Board for consideration. Following this process the identification and approval of the required additional capital and revenue funding would require to be established by Council as part of future budget setting processes.
- 5.2 As part of this work consideration is being given to how receipts from developers contributions or generated by the disposal of land and/or buildings which become surplus to requirements as a result of the strategic review can form part of the overall funding package.
- 5.3 It is expected that early in 2018 the Scottish Government will request bids from local authorities for the next round of the Schools for the Future funding programme (or its equivalent replacement funding programme). The statutory consultations and financial modelling outlined above will ensure the Council's submission to this funding programme is suitably advanced and robust when the call for proposals is circulated.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 Any future project led by Communities and Families will be aligned to all the necessary Council risk, policy, compliance and governance requirements.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 Equalities impact assessments will be carried out for any statutory consultation or capital infrastructure project which emerges from the strategic review.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 An approach to the provision of Communities and Families assets which is fully integrated with the wider asset priorities of the Council and its partners will ensure a sustainable approach to future asset provision.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Engagement with all key stakeholders, including elected members and school communities will be undertaken through both informal and statutory consultation. All statutory consultations will be conducted in line with the procedures set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Background reading/external references

- 10.1 This report is a follow up to reports to Committee on [15 August 2017](#) and [10 October 2017](#).

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